

Police Officers of the Year

Officer **Mike Serio** has been with the Salt Lake City Police Department for 12 years. Nearly 10 years ago, Officer Serio believed that bloodhounds had a place in the K9 squad and did



something about it. Mike and his partner JJ began to train on their own. Mike and JJ then convinced the Department to give them a try in the field. They quickly became a fixture of the K9 Squad.

Mike and JJ have been involved in hundreds of deployments and captures, working tirelessly to assist their fellow officers. They have also assisted many other agencies in searching for missing persons and criminal suspects. Mike and JJ are responsible for the apprehension of 271 wanted persons during JJ's almost nine years of service to the Police Department. Mike and JJ became an example of bloodhound work in

law enforcement not just in the Salt Lake Valley, but throughout the country. They have set the standard that others follow.

One such capture occurred recently when JJ helped track down a suspect who had fled the scene of a crime. The incident originated at a grocery store in Salt Lake County. The suspect entered the store and tried to take several pizzas without paying for them. A store employee confronted the suspect in the parking lot, at which time the suspect stabbed the employee with a knife. The suspect then fled the scene on foot.

Salt Lake City Police K9's began a search for the suspect. **Officer Anthony Brereton** and his K9, Jinx, were able to detect a tract near the store. Also helping in the search were **Sergeant Cameron** and his K9, Apollo. Officer Serio and JJ arrived to provide further assistance. JJ was able to follow a scent trail and tract the suspect for over two miles. The suspect was located hiding in an apartment. He was arrested and booked into jail by sheriff deputies. This apprehension represented JJ's 265th capture.

JJ became ill in 2006, but never lost his desire to catch the "bad guys." Mike and JJ went to New York where JJ received an experimental treatment that extended his life for another productive year. In their last year of service together, JJ and Mike were responsible for 50 captures. During this time, his longest track reached almost three miles.

With the passing of JJ in 2008, others will have to do the tracking, but they will follow the trail Mike and JJ blazed. The Salt Lake City Police Department appreciates the dedicated service of JJ and his handler, Officer Mike Serio, and recognizes them as the Police Chief's Officers of the Year.



2008 Utah Tennis Wheelchair Tennis Camp

June 20, 21 and 22 at the Liberty Park Tennis Center



camp fee of \$25 covers equipment, instruction, dinner Friday, lunch Saturday, and court fees. Scholarships may be available. For more information, contact the Utah Tennis Association at 944-8782.

The camp is open to players of all ages and ability levels. The

Positive recognition

by Mike Akin

"I can live for two months on one good compliment." — *Mark Twain*

Would you like the workplace to be more positive and less negative? If you would, there's something you can do about it. Surveys show what we already know — that we all want to be appreciated for a job well done. Want to know the biggest motivator in the workplace? It's not money — it's thoughtful, personal recognition for good work. And it can start with you.

We know the threat of punishment is far less effective than the power of positive reinforcement. We give greater effort and do better work under a spirit of approval than we would ever do under a spirit of criticism. A little positive reinforcement goes a long way. Author of *One Minute Manager*, Ken Blanchard writes:

"There's one thing I've learned in my life, it's the fact that everyone wants to be appreciated. This goes for managers as well as employees, parents as well as children, and coaches as well as players. We never outgrow this need and even if it looks like we are independent and self-sufficient, the fact is we need others to help us feel valued."

Though this might sound like common sense, so often I've found that common sense is not common practice in organizations today. We're often too busy or too stressed to remember that the recognition we crave, others crave as well.

The best organizations are built on appreciation. They make their people feel special, and never let their employees forget how important they are. But all this has to start somewhere, and you can help build such a climate at Salt Lake City Corporation. Try a little experiment today, and pay somebody a compliment — or go out of your way to express appreciation to a co-worker. It might feel funny if you're not used to it, but you'll come away feeling better about yourself while making the workplace a better place.

But you say, "Why me? I'm not in charge here. Isn't this somebody else's job?" Then ask yourself, "If not me, who? If not now, when?" If you won't appreciate others, why should they appreciate you? Scientists say that when a golden butterfly flaps its wings in the Amazon jungle it actually influences a sandstorm in Topeka, Kansas, or a hurricane in Miami. No kidding. And one positive person makes a difference in a company, too. You can influence change. You can be part of a positive workplace. It might take a while, but it can happen. Pay somebody a compliment, and watch what happens. Pass on the praise; let positive recognition begin with you.

New Drug Dealers in Our Homes

by Abbie Vianes, Coordinator, SLC Mayor's Coalition on Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs

August is National Medicine Abuse Awareness month and since Utah is in the top three states for prescription drug abuse, it is good to be educated on the subject and take steps to protect our children.

In Utah, there were more deaths in 2006 from prescription drug overdoses than from vehicular accidents. Nationally there were 20,000 deaths from overdose — more than from homicides; 2.1 million teens admitted to abusing prescription drugs.

Kids think nothing will happen to them. More teens abuse prescription drugs than all illicit drugs combined (except alcohol, #1 and marijuana, #2). One third of teens surveyed nationally believe there is nothing wrong with using a prescription drug once in a while. Teens report they use them to alter mood, saying there is one pill for every mood; that prescription drugs are safe because they are prescribed by a doctor; they are not putting unhealthy things into their bodies; prescription drugs are a lot easier to get than street drugs (they don't have to find a drug dealer); and they are cheaper (they get them from home for free).

Teens also report that they use prescription drugs when they want to focus on tests or exams, to improve study, to de-stress and to relax, to relieve pressures, and to reduce inhibitions while having sex.

Where are kids getting their prescription drugs? The number one place is at home (the medicine cabinet is the new drug dealer in town). Also, teens get them from friends' and from grandparents' medicine cabinets. They also buy them over the internet. Of 185 sites found to sell prescription drugs, 89 percent do not require a prescription. Also, the drugs sold are very often NOT pure; some were tested and were not at ALL the drug compound they were sold as.

Parents, this is a VERY serious problem in our state, so much so the state legislature funded a state level advisory board to study the problem and make recommendations.

You can do the two things that research shows have the most positive impact: simply clean out your medicine cabinets and get rid of any unused prescriptions or lock up your meds (you've just cut the drug supply) and talk to your children about the dangers of misusing and abusing prescription drugs. Any use of a prescription outside the population and medical problem the drugs were created and tested for is dangerous. Make clear, "no drug use" rules with your children — tell them and write down the rules and post them. Copious research shows use rates go down tremendously when parents do these simple steps.

Parents who never in their worst nightmares ever thought they would have a child addicted to heroin do because their child began with a narcotic painkiller (oxycontin) and switched to street heroin because it is cheaper.

PLEASE make your prescription medicines unavailable and make clear no drug use rules with your children; this will have the biggest impact.

2008 Utah Arts Festival

Thursday June 26 – Sunday June 29
12 noon – 11 p.m.

Library Square, 200 East at 400 South

Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$5.00;

Kids (12 & under) FREE

For more information contact www.uaf.org

ROAD CLOSURE

200 East will be closed between 400 and 500 South from Monday, June 23 at 7 p.m. until Tuesday, July 1 at 5 p.m.

PUBLIC ACCESS

Access the City Library through the main entrances, 400 South or 500 South

Enter the City County building from State Street

City and County Building employees will have free access to the Festival grounds on Thursday and Friday, June 26 and 27 with employee I.D.



STARBOARD

GEMINI (MAY 21 – JUN 21): Nothing good can come from vengeful thoughts towards those who have taken advantage of you. Create good karma for yourself by focusing on the light — not the darkness.

CANCER (JUN 22 – JUL 22): Health worries concerning someone close to you may be on your mind, however, the situation will not turn out to be as bad as you may be imagining. Reflect on ways you can offer emotional support during this tough time.

LEO (JUL 23 – AUG 23): You might feel like you've been weathering a lot of storms lately, but don't despair. The clouds will be blowing over soon. Try and stay in the present and make sure to take full advantage of the upcoming sunshine. Walks in the park maybe just the ticket.

VIRGO (AUG 24 – SEP 22): This is a good period to invest, buy real estate or start a long term savings plan. Revisit any investment portfolios with the intention of fine tuning them. Eliminate lazy people in your life.

LIBRA (SEPT 23 – OCT 23): Be careful of letting your thoughts roam freely during stressful times. Your vivid imagination tends to make mountains out of mole hills. Make sure to be active, spend lots of time outdoors and take time to connect with the universal energy surrounding you.

SCORPIO (OCT 24 – NOV 22): Don't let yourself be bothered by the opinions of others. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but it doesn't mean that theirs is always right. Stay calm and do the best you can.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23-DECEMBER 21):

Coworkers may be getting on your nerves but make sure not to get caught up in office gossip or you may end up with egg on your face. Tight lips and silent observation are the best approaches to the upcoming situations at work.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22 – JAN 20): You may find yourself feeling the need to make more time to nurture and grow the spiritual aspects of your life. Don't mourn the past, but instead, remind yourself that without it, you wouldn't be the person you have become.

AQUARIUS (JAN 21 – FEB 19): You may find yourself getting involved in an old hobby that had gone by the wayside. Old acquaintances may resurface and new friendships may develop. Expect a bit of good news from an old friend.

PISCES (FEB 20 – MAR 20): This is the perfect time to start looking for Mr. or Mrs. Right. Make sure that you are very socially involved this month, otherwise, you may miss this special opportunity.

ARIES (MAR 21 – APR 20): Financial stress and worries may be heavy on your mind at the moment. Not to worry — money situations will clear up very soon. An unexpected, small sum of money should be coming to you shortly.

TAURUS (APR 19 – MAY 20): The importance of love and commitment may come up in conversations with loved ones. This is a time for buckling down and giving more of your attention to those who are dearest to you. Work and making money is important, but family should come first

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